

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:GSHOUSE:MB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
EUR/P:MR. GEHRON

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R 090004Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 085404

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 8, 1976

FOLLOWING IS PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 8:

QUOTE: Q: WE HAVE A REPORT ON THE WIRE THAT ANOTHER
DIPLOMAT IN MOSCOW WAS APPROACHED ON THE STREET AND
BERATED. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

--A: YES, LARS. A CONSULAR OFFICER OF OUR MOSCOW
EMBASSY, MISS ALYNN NATHANSON, WAS DETAINED AND
HARASSED YESTERDAY BY A GROUP OF FOUR MEN FOR ABOUT TEN
MINUTES IN A SMALL PARK NEAR THE EMBASSY CHANCERY.

AND THERE HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH THAT CONTINUING
CLOSE HARASSING VEHICULAR SURVEILLANCE OF SEVERAL EMBASSY
OFFICERS AND SOME THREATENING PHONE CALLS.

WE MIGHT ADD THAT THE EMBASSY IS REITERATING TO THE
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MINIISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MOSCOW, FOLLOWING ITS

EARLIER PROTEST, OUR CONCERN ABOUT SUCH INCIDENTS.

--Q: WAS MISS NATHANSON TOUCHED?

--A: I DO NOT BELIEVE SHE WAS TOUCHED IN THE WAY THAT I THINK ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICER A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO WAS, I THINK HE WAS SEIZED BY THE LAPELS. I AM INFORMED THAT SHE WAS JOSTLED AND THAT SOME REMARKS WERE MADE TO HER SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WERE REPORTED IN THE CASE OF THE OTHER OFFICER.

--Q: MR. TRATTNER, WAS THERE ANYTHING IN THESE HARASSMENTS INDICATING AN ANTI-SEMITIC ELEMENT ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS?

--A: I WASN'T INFORMED OF THAT, DAVID. I CAN CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

--Q: WILL YOU CHECK THAT, PLEASE?

--A: YES.

--Q: DID THESE FOUR MEN IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS POLICE-MEN, OR DID THEY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES IN ANY WAY?

--A: I DO NOT THINK THEY DID. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY DID, JERRY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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